

History of Pike in California

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries many people believed that California fisheries would be improved by moving in fish from the East Coast. During this time, striped bass, carp and largemouth bass were introduced to California. Although there is some inconclusive evidence of historic pike introduction in California as early as the late 1800s, it was not until 1988 that northern pike were verified as present in the state (one was caught by an angler in Frenchman Reservoir). Pike had been introduced illegally and were harming the trout fishery. Following 1991 and 1992 treatments of Frenchman and nearby Sierra Valley, biologists thought they were eradicated from the state. Then northern pike were discovered in Lake Davis in 1994. A 1997 rotenone treatment was carried out, but pike were rediscovered there in 1999.

Why are pike back in Lake Davis after the 1997 treatment? Either some pike survived the treatment in 1994 or someone illegally put them back in the reservoir. A definite answer will probably never be known.

Working with the Community

When pike were rediscovered in Lake Davis, the Lake Davis Steering Committee and DFG worked together to try many methods to control the pike population. These methods included nets, barriers, electrofishing, and even detonation cord. Over 65,000 pike have been removed! Even with these efforts the pike have continued to reproduce and spread throughout the lake and its tributaries.

As the pike population increased and the risk of their escape grew, DFG and the Steering Committee explored eradication options. A set of options was analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) prepared jointly by DFG and the U.S. Forest Service. Selection of the approved project was based on minimizing the environmental, social and economic impacts while maximizing the chances of success.



PHOTO BY CARL RAYMOND

FOR MORE INFORMATION

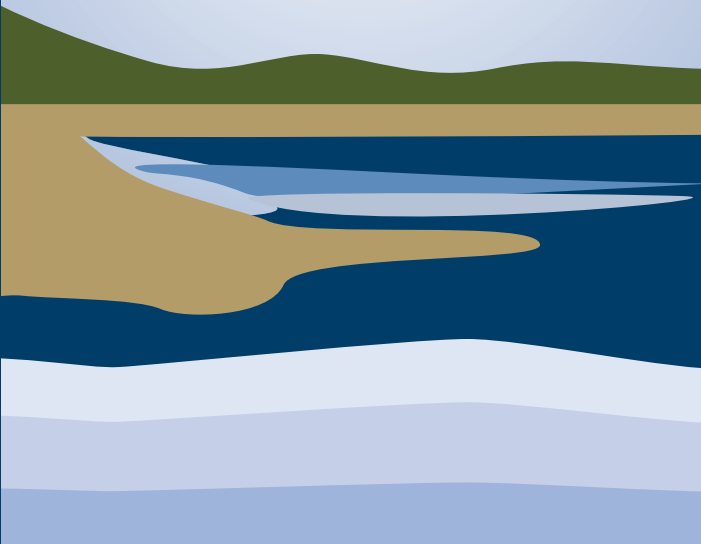
If you have questions or would like more information, please contact us at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/lakedavis

PORTOLA (530) 832-4069

SACRAMENTO (916) 322-8639

INFORMATION LINE (530) 832-4754
August-November 2007



LAKE DAVIS

PIKE ERADICATION PROJECT



PHOTO BY ERIC ENGBRETSON

**PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S
native animals, their natural
communities, and the
Sacramento River system.**



THE PERILS OF PIKE

The northern pike is an invasive predatory fish that was illegally introduced into California.

It has harmed trout fishing at Lake Davis which is an important part of the local economy. If pike escape from Lake Davis, they could threaten native fishes as well as the sport fishing economies and commercial salmon fishing industries in California. The pike in Lake Davis are the only known population in the state, and a window of opportunity exists to eradicate them.



ENSURING SUCCESS

The 2007 project differs from the 1997 treatment in many ways. The DFG is working closely with the U.S. Forest Service which owns the land surrounding the reservoir, allowing for easier access and a more intensive treatment. Field crews have extensively surveyed and mapped tributary streams for areas that could potentially contain pike. Plans for application of rotenone to the reservoir and tributaries have been developed and reviewed by experts. Extensive outreach efforts and better communication with government agencies and the local community have improved understanding of the project and the pike problem.

ABOUT THE ERADICATION PROJECT

In January 2007, the California Department of Fish and Game announced plans to eradicate the pike using liquid rotenone. The project has been carefully planned to protect public health and reduce impacts to recreation and tourism.

TREATMENT: Includes reservoir and at least two tributary stream treatments

DATES: September and October 2007

LAKE VOLUME AT TREATMENT: As close to 45,000 acre-feet as possible

ROTENONE FORMULATION: The brand name is CFT Legumine® (5% rotenone). More information can be found at www.dfg.ca.gov/lakedavis.

BEFORE TREATMENT: Trout stocking of nearby waters in the Lake Davis vicinity and increased bag limit of 10 trout at Lake Davis

AFTER TREATMENT: Extensive trout stocking in Lake Davis of all size classes

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

DFG has committed to implementing a pike eradication project that protects public health:

A Forest Closure will be implemented by the Plumas National Forest to ensure health and safety of the public and project staff.

Public Health and Safety Code 116751 holds Lake Davis water to a cleaner standard than that required under the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts.

Lake Davis will be re-opened only after there are no detectable residues of rotenone, breakdown products or other chemicals used in the project.

RESTORING LAKE DAVIS: Return to a Trophy Trout Fishery

Trout stocking of nearby waters prior to the treatment will create quality fishing during spring and summer. DFG plans to restock Lake Davis in fall 2007 and spring 2008 to re-establish its prized fishery. Public access will be opened following the project for fishing, boating, camping, hiking and wildlife viewing. The reservoir and surrounding lands boast over 100 species of birds and many mammals!



Lake Davis is not currently used for drinking water. In a project unrelated to pike eradication, Plumas County and the City of Portola are working together on construction of a new state-of-the-art water treatment facility.

A thorough monitoring program has begun that includes surface water, groundwater and sediment sampling, and will continue during and after the project.

A public information line is available for people to report any public health problems or concerns.



PHOTO BY JOHN HENDRICKSON

PHOTO BY RAY RYCHNOVSKY

TIMELINE



MAY 1999

Pike rediscovered in Lake Davis

FEB 2000

Control and containment of pike begins

MAY 2003

DFG reports that pike population growing and threat of escape remains (over 50,000 pike removed)

FEB 2005

DFG director Ryan Brodrick meets with local community and commits to funding and project director for pike eradication

OCT 2005

Scoping begins to take public input on pike eradication project

SEPT 2006

Public review of draft environmental document

JAN 2007

Project selected and approved. Implementation planning begins

SEPT 2007

Project implementation

NOV 2007

Post-project monitoring begins

**FALL 2007/
SPRING 2008**

Restocking lake with rainbow trout